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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geva's Plays in Progress Reading Announced

Rochester, N.Y., February 6, 2019 - Geva Theatre Center unveils the play chosen for *Plays in Progress 2019* to be held in the Fielding Stage at **7pm on February 17**. *Plays in Progress* are vibrant and innovative plays by some of the most exciting playwrights working today. Through Geva's *Plays in Progress* program, writers can hear their work performed, discuss the play with the audience and then continue to work on the play to its next level.

This year's Plays in Progress will feature:

Dangerous Dress

By Catherine Trieschmann Miller

Directed by Shelley Butler

A return that brief moment in the 1850s when dangerous women dared to fight for equality while wearing pants! Very few styles of dress impeded women's movements more than the tight corsets and large hoop skirts of the antebellum era, yet when suffragists challenged the fashion, few things generated greater outrage. This play will center around Seneca Falls historic icons Amelia Bloomer and Elizabeth Cady Stanton as they challenge inequality by changing their wardrobes. Fashion and politics collide, as encouraging American women to adopt the new "bloomer" dress has significant political cost to the suffragist movement.

Catherine Trieschmann Miller's plays include *One House Over*, *The Bridegroom of Blowing Rock*, *Crooked*, *How the World Began* (Milwaukee Rep 2012/13), *Hot Georgia Sunday* and *The Most Deserving*. Her work has been produced Off-Broadway at the Women's Project, Bush Theatre (London), Out of Joint at the Arcola Theatre (London), South Coast Repertory, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, New Theatre (Sydney), Florida Stage, Summer Play Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, American Theater Company and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, among others. She has received commissions from South Coast Repertory, Manhattan Theatre Club, and Denver Theatre Center for the Performing Arts. She is the recipient of the Weissberger Award, the Otis Guernsey New Voices Playwriting Award from the Inge Theater Festival and the Edgerton New Play Award. She also wrote the screenplay for the film, *Angel's Crest*, which premiered at the 2011 Tribeca Film Festival and was released by Magnolia Pictures. Originally from Athens, Georgia, she now lives in a small town in western Kansas.

Dangerous Dress has been commissioned by Geva Theatre Center as part of their continuing “Rochester Stories” series, following in the footsteps of *The Agitators*, *Revival: The Resurrection of Son House*, and *Looks Like Pretty*. **Jenni Werner, Geva’s Literary Director and Resident Dramaturg**, said, “This commissioning program represents Geva’s commitment to celebrating our region’s rich history of championing progressive causes, innovations and passions by telling the stories of our community – stories that are inspired by Rochester and have a place on a national stage.”

The reading of *Dangerous Dress* is directed by Shelley Butler and the cast features Virginia Vale as Amelia Bloomer, Josh Tobin as Dexter Bloomer, Cassie Beck as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Tiffany Nicole Green as Esther Watkins and Joyce Cohen as Katherine Milhous.

“Geva Theatre Center is proud to have a role in bringing Catherine Trieschmann Miller’s incredible new play to life,” said Jenni Werner. “The story of dress reform is a fascinating moment in our country’s history, often just a footnote in the midst of the fight for women’s right to vote. We are thrilled to explore the bloomer movement with Catherine and the characters based on such intriguing figures in our country’s history.”

Dangerous Dress will be presented in an informal, script-in-hand performance format and will be followed by a discussion with the playwright. ***Plays in Progress 2020*** is part of Geva Theatre Center’s ongoing commitment to developing and producing new work for the American theatre.

Admission to the reading is free, but reservations are required. Due to the popularity of this event, patrons are limited to two tickets per person. Call the Geva Theatre Center Box Office at 585-232-Geva (4382) or visit www.gevatheatre.org for tickets. Play readings sell out quickly, but tickets often become available the night of the performance.

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre Center is a not-for-profit theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs and services of a national standard. As Rochester’s flagship professional theatre, Geva is the most attended regional theatre in New York State, and one of the 25 most subscribed in the country, serving up to 160,000 patrons annually, including 20,000 students.

Geva operates two venues – the 516-seat Elaine P. Wilson Stage and the 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Stage. As one of the country’s leading theatre companies and a member of the national League of Resident Theatres, Geva produces a varied contemporary repertoire from musicals to world premieres celebrating the rich tapestry of our diverse community. The theatre draws upon the talents of some of the country’s top actors, directors, designers and writers who are shaping the American Theatre scene.

Geva Theatre Center offers a wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Since 1995, the organization has been under the artistic direction of Mark Cuddy. For more information: GevaTheatre.org

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